La Carta

May 1993 Volume 5

Cinco De Mayo

Many do not realize that Cinco De Mayo represents the celebration of one battle in a long line of internal and external conflict that engulfed Mexico for a better part of a century. In fact Mexico seemed to be in constant war with itself and neighboring or European monarches; but it was after the civil war between the liberals and the conservatives that Mexico found itself in an international conflict against French intervention. In 1862 an ambitious Napoleon III accompanied with Spanish and British allies invaded Mexico. After the battle of tampico the Spanish and the British forces decided they did not have the stomach for war. The French, with the support of Mexican conservatives, continued the fight in anticipation of creating a monarchy in Mexico. Initially the French forces were defeated on May 5th 1862 at the battle of Puebla. It is this date that the Mexicans celebrate as a symbol of their resolve to keep Mexico free. It empowered Mexicans with a pride that would later prove essential in helping to win the war. After the defeat of his forces at Puebla, Napoleon sent reinforcements to Mexico in June of 1863, thus extending the Mexicans struggle for freedom till the final ouster of the French in 1867. The battle of Puebla had been the inspiration but the hero was Benito Juarez. Juarez was a humble Indian from Oaxaca who had been the the leader of the liberal movement since the 1858 civil war with the conservatives started. Economic and political turmoil continued till the control of the country came under the control of General Porfirio Diaz in 1876 , but the inspiration of Cinco DE Mayo and Benito Juarez made it all possible.

Gaime

Cinco De Mayo celebration scheduled

The U.C.R.S.E. under the direction of Rick Martinez, will be hosting a Cinco De Mayo celebration on Saturday the 7th at the Hide n' seek complex in Colorado Springs. La Guia will be involved by providing an information table and participating in the festivities. Plans for the evening include: a chili cook-off, an auction, performers, dancing and good times. All proceeds from the event will benefit La Guia, so we strongly suggest you drop by and enjoy the evening with us. If you are interested in participating in the chili cook -off call the La Guia hot line.

Calender of Events

- Cinco De Mayo Celebration
  Saturday, May 7th
  Hide n' Seek Complex
  Colorado Springs
- La Guia Steering Committee
  Meeting/Dinner
  Saturday, May 14th 6:00 PM
  (location to be announced)
  Colorado Springs
- La Carta deadline for submissions
  Sunday, May 15th
- La Guia sponsors: Noche Diversidad
  Saturday May 28th
  MGM
  Denver
- La Guia Steering Committee
  Meeting
  Saturday June 11th
  (location to be announced)

LA GUÍA DIVERSITY INCLUSION

La Guia
PO Box 1335 "Colorado Springs "CO "80901

Noticias

Plans for participation in the Denver and Colorado Springs Pridefest festivities are being finalized. Currently, ideas are still being accepted and volunteers to create a new banner and booth are being sought.

Organizers for our new Denver Division are still being recruited. Due to our expanded services and growing membership, special orientations are available to Denver members to help expedite the creation of their division. Proposals for Lower Arkansas Valley and New Mexico divisions have been put on hold until further notice.

La Guia and Ground Zero are co-sponsoring Jose Zuniga as Grand Marshall for the Colorado Springs Pride Parade and Rally. Details are still being finalized but La Guia has been assured Mr. Zuniga will most likely be able to attend.

Jose Zuniga, soldier of the year who was discharged for proclaiming his homosexuality, will be Grand Marshall of the Springs Pride Parade.

The PPGLCC Caucus is being well received but the caucus fund is in dire need of money to function smoothly. If you have any ideas for raising more money for the caucus fund, we welcome your ideas.

The People of Color Arts and Crafts Show surfaced ideas of creating an Arts and Crafts team to be supported by La Guia. Initial ideas include promoting and supporting the team by making the La Guia booth available for future festivals, pridefests and other outdoor events, in exchange for exposure and a percentage fee.

If you're interested please call the hot line.

Proposals for a new statewide support/ information AIDS network for Latinos and Hispanics are in the works. Input and support staff of the new program are needed. La Guia will sponsor the program but it is hoped that participation will include all the state's Hispanic and Latino groups.

La Guia will sponsor Noche Diversidad at the MGM in Denver on May 28th. Activities being proposed are performances including singers, modern and flamenco dancers, and renditions by Aviva Diamond; plus dancing to your favorite Latin tunes. Flyers and more specific information will be sent soon.

Lenny Jaramillo of Denver, who is best known for " Living W/AIDS " column in OUT FRONT, was recognized by La Gente Unida of Denver for his 14 years of service to the LesBiGay and Latino communities. Lenny is also involved with the People with AIDS Coalition.

La Carta staff members need writers, reporters and a support staff. If you'e interested in getting involved with the newsletter, get in touch with us. The LC staff also encourages anyone to submit articles, stories or poems.

Dear Editor:

This May I have been with La Guia now for one year. This is my first long term relationship of which I am very proud.

Before , long term meant I would stay through the night, have breakfast(usually a sandwich making me more mobile) losing his number as I promised to call again to get together.

Like a lot of men I have a huge fear of commitment. Am I afraid of being hurt? Do I feel I'm not worthy? This stems from my Catholic need to suffer, for in suffering one shall get closer to God. I should try S&M and B&D but that leads to all sorts of problems- like what does one wear on a first date?

Yet I made a commitment with La Guia and it feels good, it got me out of therapy which in turn saved me a lot of money in which I can buy leather goods- I know now what to wear on a first date.

I learned through La Guia that I'm important, that one person can make a difference. That I'm in control of my life, not some outside fear. I've made new friends (Hi Roz) and I've met caring people (Bobby Mone from Ground Zero)

I'm proud to be apart of La Guia, proud of my commitment.

Robert Garcia

On March 31, I attended a forum on HIV/AIDS in Colorado Springs, I was alarmed at Pueblo County's figures on people who have HIV/AIDS.

Believing that Pueblo was somehow at a distance from this disease, I realized <u>again</u> that no person or community is truly at a "distance" from HIV/AIDS. I have talked to many in Pueblo about S-CAP Pueblo and it's need for volunteers.

If you have the time, consider

(Continued on page 3)

Cultures within a culture

The United States of America is a " land of immigrants." The struggles of these immigrants, specifically of Latino/Hispano origin, with economic hardships, stereotyping, and discrimination are forgotten in U.S. history. Within the last few decades, these immigrants have permantely changed the racial composition of this country. Immigration, coupled with a relatively high birth rate, is increasing the number of Latino/Hispanos in this country so rapidly that it's predicted that by the year 2020, this group will be the largest cultural minority in the U.S., approximately 15% of the population.

America's face willl not change through the "melting pot" theory, but through cultural pluralism. In the "melting pot" method , immigrants are "Americanized through the educational systems and othe ways, such as English Only laws. O f course this means surrendering their identity in place for new values and customs.. Cultural Pluralism, on the other hand, does not require one to forsake their idenity in exchange for the label of "American". Instead this method recognizes that one of america's strengths is its diversity and therefore values diversity.

Why is it important to know about Latino/Hispanos? First, it is important to know that they are not a homogeneous group. Although Latino/ Hispanos are united by a common language and Spanish origin they maintain distinct ethnic groups. Each has its own heritage, religion, myths, holidays, culinary specialties, style of dress and social structure. Second, Latino/Hispano should be understood for their contributions of lasting cultural signifigance to present day American culture.

Although Latino/Hispano are a prominent group in America they are rarely recognized in our history texts.

MDC

Poetry

STAPLED TO THE WALL

police-state of mind
it's got me stapled to the wall
kick me again so I can remember that
I'm not like you, that I'm not perfect
I'm bleeding all over the road
one more *sinner* stomped into oblivion
where is my place in your world?
a butterfly nailed by your hatred

aw, this ain't new, in fact we've seen it
so many times before
pinned to the wall by hitler's finest
hearts pierced by inquisition
who comes to the aid of a wounded dog?

turn your face away from my crimson
wounds
or else it might tickle your conscience
otherwise

"hey, queer girl! We're gonna ice you,
lesbian bitch!"
and that is how it is

V.M.

COLORES

dearly beloved
we are gathered here
because of colors
to shed a tear
for the young of this great land
wasting away
like castles made of sand
they play war games
and keep a deadly score
while people wonder
what for?

an eye for an eye
a tooth for a tooth
a sign for a sign
a youth for a youth
all is not well and all is not one
when the measure of a man
is the size of his gun
why don't we cease fire
on this silly war
will the hate tire?
what's the gang banging for?

the parents are sad
the police are mad
cause juan joined a gang
and thinks he's all that
colors to the left
colors to the right
treat people like dirt
eat, sleep and fight
kill or be killed
what a life to live
a heart that is empty
doesn't know how to give
hold on to your dreams
that's all that is in store
for a land where youth
believe that power is...war

MDC

(Continued from page 2)

g iving that irreplaceable gift of time to someone who has HIV/AIDS. Contact Shirley at S-CAP Pueblo at 561-2616. Volunteers are needed in many areas that everyone has something to offer.

Robert Garcia

Note: S-CAP of Colorado Springs is in need of volunteers tambien. Contact Beth at 578-9092.

MDC

Have you received your membership card and 800# yet? If not give us a call and it will be sent immediately!

Mexican-Americans

The largest and oldest of Latino/Hispano groups on America is Mexican- Americans. Except for the Native-Americans, no other ethnic group can claim longer residence , accounting for over four centuries.

History

By 1521, Hernando Cortez and his army conquered the Aztec Empire (Mexico) . In the following centuries of settlement, the Spaniards intermarried with the Indians, creating a new nationality: Mexicans. The Spaniards imposed their religion and culture onthe Indians, but many elements of the Indian culture survived and greatly influenced present day Mexican culture.

In 1810, the Mexicans began their revolt against Spain and gathered independence by 1821. In 1824, California, New Mexico and Arizona accepted the Mexican constitution. However, in 1836, Texas revolted against Mexico and joined the United States, causing the war between the two countries. In 1848, the United States and Mexico signed the treaty of Hidalgo, in which the United States acquired over one-half of Mexico's territory. During the war, propoganda was used to turn sentiment against the Mexicans, thus giving a negative public image of Mexicans.

Even over the years, after hundreds of Mexican-Americans have served in the armed forces in World War II, Vietnam, Korea, and Desert Storm, lack of acceptance continues. Many Mexican-Americans were decorated for bravery and received the Medal of Honor.

Contributions to the American Culture

One of the most colorful eras of American history is that of the cowboy. Where was everthing that defined a cowboy conceived from? The Mexican cowboy (vaquero) of course, for example, the lasso, chaps, ranches, rodeo, roping and horse breaking techniques. Even branding of cattle is of Mexican origin and was developed before the settlement of Jamestown.

Another interesting contribution which aided women's rights is the right of community property, based on Mexican law. Mexicans recognized the economic contribution of the wife during marriage.

Next month we will take a look at the second largest Latino/Hispano group in the United States, Puerto Ricans.

MDC

Quick Bites

☐ University of Colorado Regents voted against having a plan that would offer students health insurance for domestic partners. Even though this would not have been state funded. It was done in fear of angering homophobic lawmakers who decide on the school's state funding.

☐ A Republican candidate for governor, Phil Klingsmith, has been publicly denouncing the overturned decision on Amendment 2. So far all three Republican candidates for governor; Klingsmith, Dick Sargent, and Mike Bird, suffer from extreme homophobia!

Classified

● Abrazotes go out to the San Luis Valley chapter of PFLAG! La Guia is so proud and appreciative of all your efforts and support-Keep up the good work!

● The latest word form "El Valle" (San Luis Valley) is that "Weekends" is having increasing numbers of Lesbians/Gays gathering on Monday nights. They welcome everybody to join in on the fun!

● Colorado Springs musician seeks other for jam sessions. Call the hot line for contact.

● Happy 20th Aniversary to Tina and Arlene! Gaime

● Y mas abrozotes to our not -so-long-distance member - Vivian, in the Land of Enchantment/New Mexico. Your contributions to the newsletter and arts & crafts show made a world of difference- Muchisimas Gracias.

● A special thanks to the vendors and Gentry's for the success of our recent "People of Color Arts & Crafts Show." You are all prime examples of the positive / creative work that serves as a vital force in our community.

● Special thanks to Gilbert for always eing there and having time to discuss anything with me. Glad you're a member! Robert

Pen Pals

☺ Dora lives in a small town in Texas and would love to have someone to correspond with.

☺ Steph is stationed over seas in the Carribean and she also desires a gay female to be her Pen Pal.

If you would like their addresses please call the hot line or write us and we will give them to you!

RAUL

The cold night wind seemed to slap Raul's face with blowing snow as he walked up the small hill to the "Bar." Although it had stopped snowing and the sky had cleared, the wind kept the night bitterly cold. He tried to angle his slim bundled- up frame into the wind, keeping one hand in his pocket and the other tightly holding the collar of his coat together. As he pressed forward, he would intentionally step on an occasional piece of ice just to hear it crack. Mostly, he kept his eyes on the dark frozen sidewalk; but occasionally, he would scan the old dark neighborhood for signs of life behind the lighted curtained windows. The moon was out now and the shadows of the big elm trees constantly changed the neighborhood as they whipped about in the howling wind. "I'm almost there," thought Raul as he switched his warm hand up to his collar and transferred his cold one into his pocket. Finally, he could hear the recurring `THUD' of dance music in the distance. As he looked up, he spotted the `cheezy' sparkling orange lights of the neighborhood `gay' bar. They spelled out "HILLTOP INN." "Christmas left-overs," he thought, but then he realized how beautiful the lights made the blowing snow look, as if millions of fireflies had flung themselves off the "bars" roof. "Cool, must be a good sign," he whispered. Raul stepped up his pace knowing relief from the cold was only a few feet away. As he flung the door open the music seemed to pour out while the warm air pulled him in. As he looked around he first noticed the disco lights above a sunken dance floor in the back, a long bar to the left and tables against a mirrored wall to the right. Taking his coat off, Raul beelined for the stool at the end of the bar nearest the door. "I can look straight down the bar from here" he thought, as he smiled to himself. Sitting on his coat he studied his surroundings, the wall next to the table area had mirrors and posters of men who you never see except on posters, and the bar was full of glasses, bottles, liquor and (of course) more mirrors. In fact, there were all kinds of mirrors all over the rough wooden walls. Etched mirrors, mirrors with beer brands on them, antique mirrors. They were everywhere. Raul concluded, `it must be to dark for anything else in here'. Raul had also noticed the bartender, a handsome slim collegiate type of guy with a nice round butt. As he came down the bar towards Raul, he was efficiently picking up spent bottles and glasses from the others at the bar. "Hi honey, what'll ya have?" he asked. His voice startled Raul. He wondered how a hunk like this could have such a little feminine voice. "Give me a draft." responded Raul. The bartender left as quickly as he had arrived. It was then that he noticed the crowd. Laughter and an occasional screeching queen could be heard over the music. "It's going to be a lively night" thought Raul. "Here ya go honey" said the bartender as he put down the beer with a wink. Pausing, with a smile he said, "It must be windy out there tonight". As he scurried away again, Raul realized how he must look. Instinctively, he turned to the nearest mirror, as any respectable gay man would. As expected, his black hair looked like a bad Patti La Belle hair-do. He immediately shook his head and tried to comb it down with his fingers, occasionally glancing around to see if anyone was watching. Fortunately no one seemed to notice; or so he thought. "Hi, you just get here?" Raul swung around. There, with an out-stretched hand, stood a slightly muscular guy. Shaking his hand briefly, Raul responded "Yea, it's still bad out" wondering if his hair was in place. Raul quickly studied the man's bushy blond hair and the muscular lines under his worn-out jeans and blue sweatshirt. "Could I sit here" he asked, pointing at the stool beside Raul. "Sure!" Sitting on the stool he said "My name is Steve. I'm tired of playing pool so I'm gonna down some brews for a while. What your name?" "Raul," Lighting up, Steve exclaimed,

"RAW-OOOL! Hey, I like that. Is that French?" "It's Spanish," responded Raul. "You don't look Mexican, you look more Italian" said Steve. A little irritated, Raul stressed, "I'm Puerto Rican." Raul was amused at the thought that only Hispanic Europeans could look European. "We come in all colors." added Raul. "I always thought that all Puerto Ricans were black," said Steve as he sipped on a beer. Bothered by Steve's ignorance, but grateful that he at least asked questions, Raul decided to break the ice with a joke by saying, "No, we're just mongrels like the rest of the U.S." It worked because Steve laughed at the thought of being a mixed-breed himself. Raul was relieved, since he just wanted to be treated as an equal and he wasn't in the mood to educate anyone in a bar; especially about something he loved, and as serious a topic as his heritage. Anyway, he had just walked through a cold snowy night to have fun and party awhile. Steve was bouncing on his bar-stool to the beat of the music when he stopped suddenly and, in an almost maudlin tone said, "Wow, I just realized, since you're from Puerto Rico, you must really be bummed by all this cold weather and all." All of a sudden even the nice muscular body of this guy wasn't enough to keep Raul interested. "I grew up in New York" Raul said coldly. "Really? Did you live in Spanish Harlem?" "Queens" mumbled Raul. At that moment the bartender swished into view, "Hi Steve, who's your friend?" "Hi Bobby, this is Raw-oooool" answered Steve. "Ooooh! that's pretty. Is that French?" asked Bobby. "No, It's Spanish," Raul sighed. "Oh do you mean Spanish Spanish, not like the Spanish we got around here, right?" asked Bobby, with mannerisms that reminded Raul of a cheap 1940's actress. "No, just Spanish...but I'm Puerto Rican" added Raul. The long cold windy walk home was starting to look really nice by now. Raul was amazed how little so many people seemed to know about other cultures. "Is Puerto Rico an island or is it a string of islands?"asked Bobby. Raul just looked at him, not knowing if he should even answer or not. Smiling into Bobby's waiting grin, Raul thought,"what a nice Bimbo." Raul just shrugged and said, "I don't know." Satisfied, Bobby blew Raul a kiss and scurried off picking up bottles and wiping off the bar. Meanwhile, Steve was staring at Raul's crotch with this lecherous grin. Looking up, Steve indicated that he needed to go to the men's room and quickly disappeared into the crowd. I wonder if the snow is still being blown off the roof? Raul said to himself. Grabbing his coat as he got up, Raul paused to glance at the disco lights in the back of he club. The fog machine had just started. In a whisper to himself Raul said ,"Yep! it's gonna be a lively night tonight." Grinning, he turned to the door as he slipped his coat on. Opening the door , the cold but fresh wind kissed his face as he stepped through the snow being blown off the roof and into the night.

note: "RAUL" is based on a true story of the experiences of a
Puerto Rican friend of mine. Names, places and dialogues have
been altered to protect the guilty.

Our Motto:

Diversity through Inclusion

Our Mission:

La Guia is a cultural awareness and advocacy service organization that encourages the inclusion of Hispano/ Latino Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays, and their friends by providing a diverse forum that is both autonomous and interactive within the greater Gay and Lesbian community.

Our Vision:

We envision a Gay and Lesbian community that is educated and respectful of the racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity within the Hispano/ Latino community, and who are aware of the benefits of maintaining a pluralistic society.

Our Description:

We represent Hispano/Latino Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays, and their friends from a variety of backgrounds throughout Colorado who are dedicated to the unification and education of the Gay and Lesbian community at large, and who believe in the mission statement of La Guia.

LA GUÍA

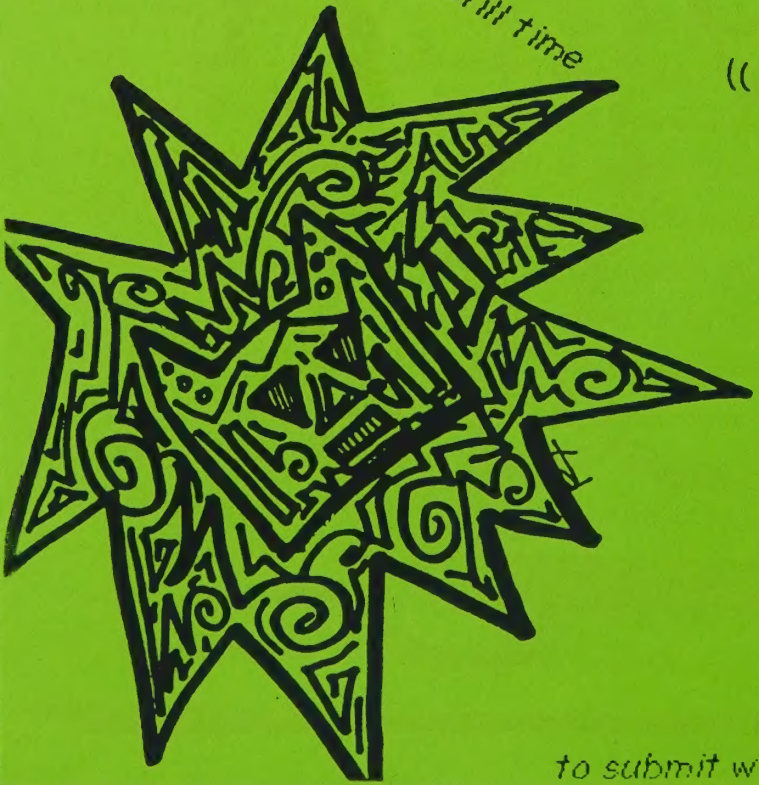
DIVERSITY INCLUSION

MISTER MACHO!

Obras Periscopicos

Call the LG Hotline.

This is a sample of illustration works to be found in La Guia's up and coming book Obras Periscopicos - there's still time



"LAS DOS LINDAS"

to submit work ! Call the LG Hotline.